

The present invention is drawn to induction of immune responses by stratum corneum chymotrytic enzyme protein or fragments thereof. Methods of identifying peptides useful for vaccine or immune stimulation are well-known and generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. For example, 9-mer to 11-mers of the stratum corneum chymotrytic enzyme protein containing binding motifs for HLA class I molecules can be identified using computer programs readily available to one of skill in the art. The binding of these peptides to the top HLA haplotypes in the general population can be analyzed by computer program found on the web site of the National Institutes of Health (http://www-bimas.dcrt.nih.gov/molbio/hla_bind). The program analyzes these peptides based upon the predicted half-life of each peptide's binding to a particular HLA allele. A long half-life indicates that the peptide has strong association with a particular HLA molecule. The stratum corneum chymotrytic enzyme protein peptides that strongly bind to an HLA allele are putative immunogens. The instant specification has disclosed a number of such peptides such as SEQ ID NOs: 31-36, 80, 86 and 99.

Applicant submits that induction of immune responses by these peptides can be readily shown by a person having ordinary skill in this art using standard procedures well-known in the art. Applicant hereby respectfully submits a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 by inventor Dr. Tim O'Brien. The data in the Declaration showed that stratum corneum chymotrytic enzyme protein or fragments thereof (such as SEQ ID NOs: 32 and 33) are capable of inducing cytotoxic T cell responses against stratum corneum chymotrytic enzyme protein.

Hence, based on the data contained herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims on the method of inducing immune responses by stratum corneum chymotrytic enzyme protein or fragment thereof have reasonable correlation to the scope of the enablement provided by the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

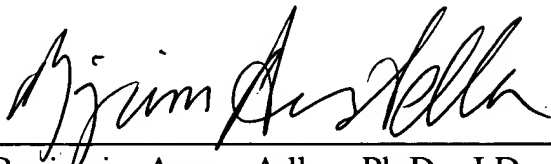
This is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action mailed November 20, 2002. If any issues remain outstanding,

the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney of record for immediate resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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